Price rise of life saving drugs

1677. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the month-wise percentage of price-rise of life saving drugs during the last three years; and from January, 1991 to August. 1991; and

(b) what remedial steps Government have taken to check them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) This is a voluminious exercise and therefore the time and labour involved in collecting the requisite details will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved. However, the figures in regard to the movement of the wholesale price index for drugs and medicines for the last three years are as under:—

(Base 1981-82=100)

Year whole sale price Index

1988-89—136.9

1989-90—140.4

1990-91—149.6

Overcharging of prices by drugs companies

1678. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 351 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the amounts assessed against the companies on account of overcharging of prices;

(b) when were these amounts communicated to the companies;

(c) whether any of these companies have deposited the amounts with Government;

(d) if so, names of the companies and amounts deposited by each and if not, what action has been taken against them;

(e) whether any of the companies have gone to court against the action taken by Government;

(f) if so, name of the company and ground on which petition has been filed; and

(g) when and in which court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (g) All the cases of alleged overcharging in respect of formulations names of which are mentioned in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 351 answered on 18th July, 1991 are still under examination of the Government. It would be possible for the Government to assess the overcharged amount only after the complete details as asked for from each company becomes available with it.

Overcharging the amount on the packs of drugs

1679. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 351 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) what was the amount overcharged per pack on all the formulations referred to and since when the amount was being overcharged;

(b) whether it is a fact that the price of Flagyl IV Injection, Metrogyl IV Injection and Infusion is being still overcharged and the producers are being shielded by Government;

(c) what is the price of each being charged at present;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have not taken any action against any drug company for overcharging the prices;

(e) whether Government are proposing to launch prosecution against these producers;

(f) if so, by when;